Monthly Cytoxan®

Your neurologist has ordered cyclophosphamide (Cytoxan®) for treatment of multiple sclerosis. Cytoxan is an anti-cancer drug that works by suppressing the immune system. It can slow down disease activity in some patients. The medicine is given directly into a vein by way of an intravenous (I.V.) drip. Cytoxan is not an experimental treatment.

Cytoxan therapy can produce serious side effects. Your neurologist will discuss the potential benefits and risks with you and your family. If you have any concerns or questions, discuss them with your health care team.

The treatment will take place at the Mellen Center one-half day every month. The appointment dates and times will be arranged by the appointment office at the Mellen Center. For appointment information, please call 216.444.8600 or 1.800.223.2273, ext. 48600.

Before your treatment
You will need to come to the Mellen Center before your treatment begins for pre-treatment testing.

- Blood tests, a urine test (urinalysis), and an electrocardiogram (EKG) will be ordered.
- Your height and weight will be measured.
- The team will evaluate your bladder function and needs.
- You will learn about pre-treatment medicine to control nausea

What can I expect during my treatment?

- Expect to be at the Mellen Center for 3½ to 4 hours each day of your treatment.
- The nurse will check your blood pressure and pulse before and after treatment.
- Wear comfortable, warm clothes.
- Please bring something to pass time, such as a book.
- Please bring a large drink container.
- During this time, you will be given Cytoxan methyl-prednisolone (Solu-Medrol® or Decadron®), an anti-nausea medicine, and intravenous fluid through an IV drip.
What can I expect during my recovery?
Because Cytoxan suppresses your immune system, the body's system for fighting illness, you will be prone to infection after treatment.

Avoid contact with people who are sick, especially the first 12 to 14 days after the treatment.

What are the side effects of the treatment?
Cytoxan side effects include:
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Hair thinning/loss
- Low white blood count
- Washed out or tired feeling 2 to 3 days after your treatment
- Occasionally, bladder irritation and bleeding. Cytoxan can also cause bladder tumors over the long term in some individuals.

Kytril® (a medicine to control nausea) side effects:
- Headache
- Diarrhea or constipation
- Altered taste
- Tired feeling
- Abdominal pain
- Asthenia (loss of strength)

Reglan® (a medicine to control nausea) side effects:
- Fatigue
- Restlessness

- Diarrhea
- Dry mouth
- Tired feeling

Tell your health care provider if you experience extreme weakness, severe nausea, or vomiting.

Note:
You are responsible for getting your blood work completed 2 weeks after treatment and 1 week before the next treatment.

Does insurance cover this therapy?
Insurance coverage varies greatly, depending on individual insurance plans. Cytoxan (cyclophosphamide) is usually covered. If you want to check with your insurance company before treatment begins, you will need to let them know the following CPT (procedure) codes:

1. J9096: Cytoxan
2. 96410: Chemo infuse first hour
3. 96412: Chemo infuse additional hour
4. 99211: Established patient; level 1

You can also contact the Mellen Center's financial counselor at 216.444.8100 or 1.800.223.2273, ext. 48100, for questions about your insurance coverage.